

2012 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2012 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2011 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2012 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2012 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fishing & Boating", then "Where to Fish", and finally "Find a Place to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2012 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2012 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



New and Expanding Fisheries in 2012

- Smallmouth bass stockings continue in Paintsville Lake in conjunction with improvements in cool water habitat to help re-establish the fishery.
- White crappie stockings continue in Taylorsville, Carr Creek, Paintsville and Kentucky lakes to bolster fish populations in those lakes.
- Rainbow trout will be stocked in Floyds Fork in association with The Parkland's of Floyds Fork Park System.
- Blue catfish have been stocked in Lake Wilgreen since 2009 to establish a new fishery in that lake.
- Redear sunfish have been stocked in Yatesville and Fishtrap lakes to establish viable fisheries in those lakes.
- Several small lakes across the state have been added to our trout and catfish stocking program. Please see our web page (fw.ky.gov) for more information about the FINS program and associated stockings.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try and get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Crappie and white bass at Cave Run Lake (Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties).
- Largemouth bass at Corinth Lake (Grant County).
- Crappie at Dewey Lake (Floyd County).
- Bluegill at Fishtrap Lake (Pike County).
- Smallmouth bass at Laurel River Lake (Whitley and Laurel counties).
- Redear sunfish at Marion County Lake (Marion County).
- Bluegill at Mauzy Lake (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA).

Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy

As you approach the end of the winter months in anticipation of beginning a new year of fishing, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing "hot spots". In March, as water temperatures begin to rise into the 50's and the winter doldrums are nearing their end, fish activity will usually begin in the smaller waters bodies such as farm ponds and public lakes as they usually warm sooner than reservoirs. But, do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, community lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River (below Lake Cumberland). Late winter and early spring may be the best times of the year to catch that trophy fish that you have always been after.

During the end of winter and early spring, largemouth bass, especially large females, begin to feed and are at their heaviest weight for the entire year. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early largemouth bass fishing. A few of the best lakes for catching a trophy bass are Barkley, Kentucky, Cedar Creek, Fishpond, Malone, Kincaid, Greenbo, Wood Creek, and Guist Creek lakes. Other lakes that offer excellent early bass fishing are Barren, Beshear, Herrington, Mauzy, and Green River lakes in west/central Kentucky and Cave Run, Wilgreen, Dewey, and Fishtrap lakes in eastern Kentucky.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass as adult fish begin to move from over-winter habitat in larger streams and rivers to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Very good smallmouth bass fishing can be found in streams during the early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Some of the best opportunities can be found in Elkhorn Creek, South Fork Licking River, and several upper Kentucky River and Green River tributaries.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at most reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Recent research has shown crappie moving to shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Other good bets include Herrington, Cumberland, Dewey, Rough, Nolin, and Buckhorn lakes, as well as the Kentucky River.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in headwater streams and rivers of our reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River, Herrington and Taylorsville lakes. Also try the Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers for white bass. During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing are reaching their peak in tailwaters below dams, especially the Ohio and lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Excellent walleye fisheries can also be found in Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes. If you are interested in muskie, they can usually be found moving to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, and Buckhorn lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish creel is in effect for muskie at these three reservoirs. Try these late winter and early spring "hot spots". Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

2012 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2011 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2012.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)
Blue catfish	Good	Good numbers of 10-20 pounders with the occasional 50+ pounder. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Blue catfish can be caught year around in the tailwater. Best bait is cut shad or skipjack herring.
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn is best choice. Fish move deeper in the summer and fall where they can be caught on drop shot rigs.
Channel catfish	Good	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink bait in shallow water in the spring. Channel catfish can also be caught year around in the tailwater.
Crappie	Good	Overall numbers are still down, but fishing reports are positive, and the population is on the rebound. Anglers may have to work harder, but many keeper crappie are being caught. Many fishermen are changing tactics, casting light jigs and roadrunners in the spring and fall to take advantage of black crappie in the population.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Flood conditions during spring of 2011 precluded effective sampling for largemouth bass. However, creel reports suggest continued success by bass fishermen throughout the year. Traditional methods provide consistent results. However, the hot bait for the fall was the "Alabama Rig" which is simply an umbrella rig fished with plastic baits that mimic shad. Carolina rigs, jigs, and crank baits work in deeper water as well.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 8 - 10 inch fish with trophies up to 13 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	Population consisting of some harvestable-size (>14.0 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crank baits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. Best opportunity is around rocky shorelines, main lake points, and the canal during late winter and early spring with jerk baits. Live shiners and shad fished in the same areas work very well.
Striped bass	Good	The best fishing is in the Barkley Dam tailwater. Striped bass will school up during periods of discharge downstream from the generator section of the dam. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface over flats during summer and fall in the reservoir, using topwater and blade-baits. The population is limited in the lake. Most are caught fishing ledges for white bass.
White bass	Fair	Fishing success has been decent the last few years. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. Night fishing can be excellent during summer in areas where the current is restricted. Similar to striped bass, good fishing occurs in the tailwaters.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER (from dam to Green River confluence)		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Barren River Lake tailwater area hybrid fishing is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams at Bowling Green and Greencastle.
Muskellunge	Good	Target mouth of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks during the summer months. Fishing below Greencastle and Barren River dams good year round.
Smallmouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 12-inch fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Fishing best from dam to Bowling Green. Target areas above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky banks in pool areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks and logs. Fish spinner baits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Buzzbaits during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below instream dams at Greencastle and Bowling Green especially during December – March. Good sized walleye (15-25 inch) available. Sauger have been stocked since 2010.
BARREN RIVER LAKE 10,000 acres (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (early June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 18-20 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Good numbers of 6–8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall. Fish deeper in the summer near cove mouths and along bluff walls near laydowns or standing timber.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2010, with some of these already over 20 inches. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Crappie mix will be about 50-50 (black and white crappie). Fair numbers of both are available. To start the year, most larger crappie (10-inch plus) will be blacks, but by fall white crappie will contribute equally to larger fish catch. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer and winter fishing is best around deeper structure and fish attractor/brush sites.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. Spring fishing best in headwater areas with spinners, crank baits and curly tailed jigs. Target main lake (around islands in mid-lower lake) with crankbaits and spoons early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall as schools appear throughout the lake. Always be on the lookout for hybrids busting baitfish on surface for fast paced action. 200,000 stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers overall and good numbers of 15-inch plus and 20-inch plus fish.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population overall; however, quality/trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Target lower half of the lake near the dam, fishing rock outcroppings and rocky transition areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Lower density population overall; however, quality fish (15 inches plus) available. Bridge pylons and bluff walls with rock slides good places to target spots.
White bass	Poor/Fair	Population numbers remain low. Best fishing is during spawning run in late March to mid April with in-line spinners, small jigs and small crankbaits.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER LAKE (continued)		
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Most fish are 7-9 inches in length. Bite readily on small jigs, spinners and minnows. Bridge pylons excellent areas to target for summer time bite.
BEAVER LAKE 158 acres (Anderson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish; ≥ 9.0 inch fish possible.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common. Fall fishing good in shallows in coves.
Crappie	Fair	Fair numbers of fish between 8-10 inches. Larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches; expecting an increase in ≥ 15 inch fish due to removal of smaller largemouth bass in spring of 2011.
Redear sunfish	Good	Many 7-9 inch fish available around vegetation; 10-11 inch fish possible.
BESHEAR LAKE 760 acres (Caldwell and Christian counties)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blue catfish have been stocked every other year since 2005. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some already measure over 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small fish with occasional 8 inch fish caught.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10-15 inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked annually at 10-12 inches. Underutilized fishery, where most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous fish in the 6-8 inch range, with an occasional 10 inch. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Population is dominated by bass 12 -18 inches. Best fishing during spring when fish move to shallow water along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve or with a white spinner bait. During the late afternoon, try top water baits.
BOLTZ LAKE 92 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Majority of fish between 6-8 inches. Larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); Good potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish available around vegetation.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BRIGGS LAKE 18 acres (Logan County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7-feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present; fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Better than average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish in the shallows early in the spring; move back out to deeper water later in the year.
BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER 1,250 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Good	Stable population of both channel and flathead catfish. Tailwater provides additional good fishery. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds.
Crappie	Fair	During 2012 there will be high number of 5-6 inch fish with fair numbers to 10 inches. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to main lake channel. Try trolling bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass and fair numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Good size distribution, but low overall numbers. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Good numbers of musky from 30 to 40 inches; fishing can be difficult for periods following flood events. January-March fish will congregate in the lower lake and near dam. Increases in flow from dam will draw fish to spillway area.
White bass	Fair	Many 5 to 7 inch fish observed fall of 2010. Look for a good number of these fish to be quality size and harvestable the next couple of years.
BULLOCK PEN LAKE 134 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year for research purposes; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; potential for larger fish.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant, majority of fish between 6-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); Excellent potential for quality size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
White bass	Poor/Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14-17 inch range.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CARPENTER LAKE	68 acres	(Daviess County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Most fish 6-7 inches, but a few larger fish in the population.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Great growth rates have led to good number of 15-20 inch plus fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good	Most fish 12-13 inches, but a few larger 14-20 inch fish are available.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low but increasing numbers. Most 6-7 inches with a few 9-11 inch fish also available.

CARR CREEK LAKE	710 acres	(Knott County)
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer.
Crappie	Fair	Improving fishery with better numbers of keeper fish. Larger black crappie will usually range from 9-11 inches and white crappie from 10-16 inches. Areas with heavy concentration of downed trees and submerged brushpiles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of large fish. Fish greater than 20 inches are available. March-early April provides very good fishing success for big fish. Fingerling bass typically stocked in the fall to combat poor spawns.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low numbers but fish sampled up to 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Good	Best numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake; a few large fish up to 18 inches with majority from 7-12 inches.
Walleye	Excellent	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 30 inches; March through May are good months to try during day or night.

CAVE RUN LAKE	8,270 acres	(Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)
The beds of aquatic vegetation, composed of Eurasian milfoil and curly pondweed were reduced considerably last season due to the spring flooding. Look for fishing to be good around the vegetated areas if this weed growth returns. Historically, the shallow flats are covered with weed growth and fishing had been good in this area for largemouth bass and muskellunge.		
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7-inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch 7 to 8 inch long bluegill. Look for bluegill early in the year in the back of coves or other shallow water areas that warm up first or where they may spawn. Later around stumps or sunken woody structure within many areas of the lake.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to two feet long are fairly common along with a few larger sizes. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs to spawn. Later they tend to be found in deeper water. Not as plentiful, but some trophy sized flathead catfish are found in the lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE (continued)		
Crappie	Good	2011 was one of the most successful years for anglers in recent memory. The lack of vegetation congregated the fish around woody structure within the lake making finding the fish easy. If the vegetation growth returns this season, anglers will have to work a bit harder than they did in 2011. That being said, the lake is holding nice numbers of 2 to 3 year old fish and they should continue to push through the population maintaining the good numbers of larger fish for several more years. Fair numbers of 10 to 12 inch fish can be found during spring months, but success generally declines through the summer months. During spring months look for black crappie in the shallows near shore and later in association with milfoil.
Largemouth bass	Good	The North Fork and Licking River portions of the lake (upper reaches) generally hold the larger fish. In these areas try fishing the rocky banks warmed by the morning sun in April and May. For the rest of the lake fish the edges and pockets of the milfoil beds and fallen trees; in these areas largemouth bass are more common within embayments (especially around woody structure) than along the main lake shoreline. Note: 13-16 inch protective slot limit.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Excellent angling can still be expected in this fishery. September 2011 was reported as one of the better months for muskellunge fishing in recent years with high numbers of 50+ inch fish being caught. Trophy fish can be found primarily in the spawning month of April in the backs of the large coves. Fall fishing for muskellunge can also be hot from the first part of September until the end of October in the shallow flats area. Note: 36 inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	While still uncommon, smallmouth bass have been picking up in recent years. They are found primarily in the lower lake. Look for them off rocky points or shoreline areas along the main lake. One excellent bank on the lake is directly across from the Twin Knobs beach area. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous within the middle and lower main lake shoreline; becomes less common within the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13-inches long.
White bass	Excellent	Should provide some good action. Look for them up lake early in the spring and in the jumps here and there at other times. Good numbers 12-14 inches long; some larger. Many 5 - 7 inch long fish are observed in fall shocking of the upper portion of the lake and sampling showed the highest return of fish in the last 15 years, so this species appears to continue its rebound. Note: no more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.
CEDAR CREEK LAKE 784 acres (Lincoln County)		
Bluegill	Good	Abundant bluegills provide good family fishing opportunities. Bank anglers can choose from several designated fishing access areas.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 12-16 inch fish with a few over 20 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Good numbers of mostly moderate-sized crappie are available.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Relatively high density of large fish (17-22 inch) gives anglers a good chance for a trophy fish. Note: a trophy regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish creel limit is in effect on this lake.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Good density of 5-8 inch redear with a few larger fish also present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CHENOA LAKE 35 acres (Bell County)		
Bluegill	Good	Fairly good numbers of 6-7 inchers although the blanket of vegetation in upper end of the lake limits their accessibility.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good bank fishing along north side of lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish along with a few over 17 inches. Try jerking surface plugs through mats of watershield pads in spring and summer.
Redear sunfish	Good	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches. Meal worms and wax worms drifted under a bobber works well around brush and aquatic vegetation.
CLEAR CREEK LAKE 40 acres (Bath County)		
Eurasian water milfoil has covered a good portion of the lake; therefore fishing may be difficult especially in the fall. Grass carp were stocked in 2007- 2009 with no apparent signs of success as of the fall of 2009; please release any that are caught.		
Bluegill	Good	Very good numbers of 6 to 7-inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Lake receives heavy pressure reducing the overall numbers of bass, but a few in the 20-25-inch range have been sampled.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-8-inch fish with several 9 and 10 inch present. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
CORINTH LAKE 96 acres (Grant County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant; majority of fish 6 inches or less. Bluegill have been impacted by shad introduction.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	8-9 inch fish are possible.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); Excellent potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fair numbers of fish greater than 7 inches; numbers of quality-size fish continue to decrease due to competition with shad population.
CUMBERLAND LAKE 50,250 acres (Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)		
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are now defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-7 inch bluegill in lake. Try crickets in coves and cuts for good early summer action.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Excellent numbers of 16-20 inch fish with an occasional fish over 5lbs.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE (continued)		
Crappie	Good	Best population in years should provide good fishing for crappie anglers. Expect slightly higher densities of keeper fish as 2 and 3 year old fish reach 10 inches. Try jigs or minnows in headwaters of the lake (near mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle Rivers) in early spring for some excellent fishing. Fall fishing should also be good in major tributaries in the upper half of lake. Try jigs or minnows around brush near heads of creeks for best results.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable density of 13-17 inch fish; some larger fish are available. Creek arms in upper lake are slightly better for largemouth than lower lake arms.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good winter fishery. Good numbers of 14-18 inch fish present with moderate density of 18-inch plus fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Abundant population of 11-14 inch fish with occasional fish over 15 inches.
Striped bass	Good	The bulk of the striped bass fishery consists of fish less than 27 inches and anglers may need to wade through several small fish before catching a keeper (24 inches). Smaller fish (18-23 inches) will be plentiful, as the abundant 2009 year class approaches the size limit.
Walleye	Fair	Anglers can expect similar numbers to 2011, as population density remains lower than average. Stocking numbers were increased in 2011 to boost the walleye population. Best fishing in spring is at night on surface baits. Night crawler rigs and deep diving crank baits trolled 20-35 feet deep along main lake shoreline works well during summer and fall.
White bass	Fair	The white bass population continues to expand and anglers now commonly catch white bass in the upper half of the lake. Average size is around 13-14 inches. For best success, try headwater areas in early spring.
CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)		
Striped bass	Fair/Good	Fairly low density but good size (20 lbs +). Best below Burkesville using live bait or trolling shad colored crankbaits or swim baits. With warmer tailwater temperatures due to dam repair, stripers can be found throughout the tailwater most of the year.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Continued dam repairs and warmer water will likely continue to plague the trout population again in 2012. Rainbow trout abundance is significantly lower than peak years, and anglers will struggle to match past fishing success. Sterile rainbow trout were added to the mix in 2012. The sterile trout have better growth potential than fertile trout because their energy goes into growth instead of reproduction.
Brown trout	Fair	Numbers and size of brown trout have also significantly decreased due to changes in the tailwater associated with the dam repair. Anglers should expect diminished fishing success until the dam is repaired and flows return to normal.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	<u>Walleye</u> - Moderate population of quality fish (2-5 lb) in tailwater. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs. <u>Sauger</u> - becoming more common in the tailwater. Try near dam in late winter and early spring with small jigs and grubs.
White bass	Fair/Good	Population appears to be increasing in the tailwater. Try casting spinners and jigs near the dam in early spring for best success. In lower sections, fish near creek mouths.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
DALE HOLLOW LAKE 4,300 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution with moderate numbers over 15 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Continues to produce impressive numbers of fish over 3 lbs. Standard fare of jigs and soft plastics work well as do float-n-fly techniques in cold water months.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of quality sized fish (12-14 inches).
DEWEY LAKE 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Good	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access.
Crappie	Excellent	With hydrilla reduced in recent years, crappie are starting to show better growth. Another year with good catches of 9-12 inch crappie is expected in 2012. Black and white crappie are present.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year; popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Bass continue to show good size distribution. The 2009 and 2010 year classes have very high numbers and will start producing a lot of keepers in 2012 and after.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Thick heavy growths of hydrilla during 2006-2008 have built up an excellent population of fish. 36,000 fish were stocked in 2010 to keep numbers strong. Fish are present through 12 inches. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush.
White bass	Good	Numbers remain stable; good spawn and recruitment during 2008 and 2010; stocking program initiated in 2003 and continued through 2007. John's Creek will congregate fish in March for spawning.
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Channel catfish	Good	Large fish possible in bigger pools. Good numbers of “keeper” fish, especially in the lower section of the main stem.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of smallmouth bass within the slot, especially on the main stem. Also good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELMER DAVIS LAKE	149 acres	(Owen County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; many around beaver lodges. Bluegill population is being effected by presence of gizzard shad in the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair	Most around 9-11 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Plenty of bass under 12-15 slot limit with good numbers in the protected slot. Bass numbers greater than 15 inches stable. Weed beds are back and trophy-size fish possible.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fish greater than 8 inches possible near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper embayments. "Shellcrackers" greater than 10 inches present. Panfish are being impacted by the return of gizzard shad.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice sized fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as "redeye" or "rockbass".

FAGAN BRANCH LAKE	140 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout in the 20-30 foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year round.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 7-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot ranges during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. Stocked semi-annually (November and February) since 2010.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Above average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present. Fish edges of deep weed beds (15-20 feet) during summer.
Smallmouth bass	Poor/Fair	12-inch plus fish available with occasional larger fish (18-inch plus). Concentrate on dam areas.

FISHPOND LAKE	32 acres	(Letcher County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers and size distribution up to 10 inches; largest individuals will be deeper than young fish; try night fishing for large fish under overhanging shoreline brush and trees; warmouth are another panfish available at Fishpond and reach large sizes there.
Channel catfish	Fair	Lake receives annual stocking; fish up to 21 inches present; night fishing may produce best results.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Very good size distribution of fish up to 24 inches and 10 pounds; water is very clear and fish are often very difficult to catch during daylight hours. Rainbow trout provide supplemental forage to largest individuals.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
FISHPOND LAKE (continued)		
Rainbow trout	Good	Fishing is best near months stocked; stockings are in January, April, May, and October. Due to clear water most fishing is done at night. A few trout will oversummer in most years providing fish up to 16 inches.
FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER 1,131 acres (Pike County)		
Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake.
Crappie	Good	Numbers similar to recent years, yet no signs of increasing in 2012. Good springtime fishing is expected as it has been in previous years.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution; largest fish sampled in lower lake; good numbers found up into headwater area of lake.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake in late summer and at winter pool; fair spawning run in headwaters in April; night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July; good distribution of fish through 10 pounds. This is an underutilized fishery.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; ratio of keeper size bass is one of the best in eastern Kentucky.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Make up approximately 15% of black bass; good fishing primarily in the headwaters of the lake up into the Levisa Fork River and in the lower portion of the lake from Grapevine to dam; large individuals up to 22 inches. Approximately 13,000 stocked in 2011.
White bass	Poor	A few large white bass can be found scattered around the lake usually roaming with hybrid striped bass.
GRAYSON LAKE 1,512 acres (Carter and Elliott counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7-inches long. Widespread throughout the lake along with other kinds of panfish. Try fishing 5-6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Fair numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20-inches long; some trophy sized flathead catfish. Try fishing the middle and upper sections in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Success should be just as good as in 2011 or better. In Grayson it is important to fish around cover as that is where the fish are congregated. Cover should be relatively easy to find in this cliff bound lake. The lower and middle portions of the lake would be a better bet as far as catching decent size crappie.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Hybrid striped bass were originally stocked from 1998-2003 and this program resumed in 2009. Fish from the original stocking can still be found and range in length from 24 - 27 inches. Good numbers of fish from the most recent stocking program in the ≥ 15 inch range have been sampled. Try fishing coves near main creek channels and up the lake during the fall wherever you find schools of gizzard shad associated with mud flats.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GRAYSON LAKE (continued)		
Largemouth bass	Fair	Found lake wide and most numerous of the black bass species in the lake. Population tends to decline after the 12 inch size class in spite of the 15-inch minimum size limit. Spring sampling could not be conducted due to high water in 2011, however, based on fall sampling results, numbers of bass ≥ 15 inches showed an increase in 2011. Look for bass fishing to be the same or slightly better in 2011. Try fishing the upper reaches of the lake in early spring where several 5 to 6 pound bass can be found. During high water events (water level 2-3 ft. above summer pool), concentrate efforts on any partially submerged vegetation. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population. Numbers decline above 11 inches. Most fish found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Population exists, but not routinely captured in our sampling efforts. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)		
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths and brush along bank in spring and fall. Use live minnows for best results.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams. Shad imitation swim baits and bucktail jigs also produce well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through early fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish new bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake Dam)		
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best at feeder creek mouth's and around woody debris or other current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bet. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers overall with larger fish (15-inch plus) available. Fishing best below dam to 31E in Hart County.
Walleye	Fair	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams during late winter and early spring. Stocked annually throughout the river above Rochester.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER LAKE	8,210 acres	(Taylor and Adair counties)
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 20-25 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7-8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush and structure during summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers overall. Bigger fish (18-inch plus) numbers are down from past couple years as the strong year class/spawn of 2004 fades from the fishery.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Legal sized fish (36-inch) abundant. Good numbers of 40-inch plus fish. Fall, late winter and spring excellent time to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, all sizes present with opportunity for trophy-sized fish. Most abundant in mid-lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots available.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area and headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid to late March. Target standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White bass	Poor	Overall numbers are low. Department is in process of stocking the lake to re-establish population.
White crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of harvestable size fish (9-inches plus). Expect to weed through lots of sub-legal fish to find keeper fish.
GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	Gradually improving population; larger fish (up to 10 inches long) are caught early to late spring in deep-water structure. Try fishing near beaver lodges. Note: bluegill and other sunfish -15 fish daily creel limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good bass population but very difficult lake to fish. Good numbers of fish over 15-inches long; potential for trophy size bass continues. Due to water clarity, anglers may have to fish deeper when fishing this lake. Based on 2011 spring sampling data, anglers will not see much change in their catch.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Annually stocked population with some carry-over; best fishing year round is in the open lake area and in the dam area; during the spring and summer try fishing at night under lights. Winter fishing can also be good.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however a few 8 to 13-inch fish continue to be caught. After the spawn try fishing in deeper water near the bottom. Note: see bluegill regulation.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GUIST CREEK LAKE	317 acres	(Shelby County)
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant, most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch; good place to take a child fishing with live bait.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Catchable size stocked each year; very good numbers of fish with potential for trophies. Note: this lake is home to current bullhead catfish and white catfish state records.
Common carp	Good	Bottom-fish with grain-based bait; 3 to 4 lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair	Most in the 7-10 inch range.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Good numbers of fish in the 16 to 22 inch range; potential for trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; excellent potential for a trophy fish.
HERRINGTON LAKE	2,500 acres	(Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches in and around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls; best April-June.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate, but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available. Best around brush in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Two to five pound fish are common; possible trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches. Largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good night fishing during the summer.
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Good	Should see good numbers during the spring run up the Dix River. Good numbers of fish in the 12-14 inch range. Winter and spring rains should improve the spring spawning run. Trophy-size present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER		
		51,000 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)
Blue catfish	Excellent	Best fishing in the lake is on main lake during summer along deep channels. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel. Other baits to try include chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms. In the tailwaters there is year around fishing. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. Best to use fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Bluegill	Excellent	Expect some of the best bluegill fishing to continue on the lake. There is high numbers of 6-8 inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year around. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn are great baits. Later in the summer try the stake beds or deep (6-10 ' water) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.
Channel catfish	Excellent	In the lake, the best fishing occurs during late spring along chunky rock main-lake shoreline and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. There is also good fishing along river channel during the summer and on flats along the secondary channels. In the tailwaters there is year-around fishing. However, bluecat out number the channel cat in the tailwater area. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Crappie	Good	After a few good spawns, anglers should notice a lot of crappie around 9 inches. Some of these fish will break over to legal size (10 inches) during late spring. Anglers fishing deep are catching fair numbers of keeper size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Black crappie prefer clear water and gravelly shoreline. Casting the shoreline with a curly tail jig works good. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Still a lot of fish below the 18 inch size range as a result of several good year classes. Most of these fish are nearing the keeper size limit (15 inches). During the spring, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer, big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush and chasing shad and minnows. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Moderate numbers of 8 - 12 inch redear. Best fishing is in late April and early May. Fish like areas with gravel substrate. If there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time this is a good place to find redear. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily feed on the bottom for bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	Moderate population of harvestable-size (14 inch) fish. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits. In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Best fishing is along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of LBL embayments and rocky shorelines is good. Use dark color spinner baits or crayfish color creature baits.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Spotted bass	Fair	Low to moderate numbers of spotted bass in the range of 12 to 15 inches. Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravel bars and points are a prime area to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.
Striped bass	Fair	Striped bass and its hybrid are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with 6 inch deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective. Better fishing is below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of dam. Live herring is the preferred bait. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing. From the shoreline fish with 4 inch sassy shad type baits.
White bass	Fair	Fish the main lake in the summer when white bass are found along secondary creek channels near the main river channel. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal. Good numbers in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with its cousin the yellow bass. Expect construction in tailwater area, with limited bank fishing.
Yellow bass	Good	Lots of fish but they don't get real big. Their taste is better then most anglers perceive. Casting rocky shorelines with a curly tail jig or rooster tail works great. See a lot while casting rocky shorelines in the spring while crappie fishing.
KENTUCKY RIVER 255 miles (main stem)		
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Fair	Currently very good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15- to 20-inch fish below dams. Numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Largemouth bass*	Fair	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to recent flood events over the past year.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small to medium-sized fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to escapement from reservoir in headwaters and stocking program. Good size fish possible below dams.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY RIVER (continued)		
White bass	Good	Many 10-12 inch fish below dams; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.

*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

KINCAID LAKE	183 acres	(Pendleton County)
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Poor	Most between 7-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; good numbers of fish over 15 inches, excellent potential for a trophy fish. Note: 12-inch size limit.

LAKE CARNICO	114 acres	(Nicholas County)
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 6 inches can be found.
Channel catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of channel catfish as well as flathead catfish. Lake is stocked with channel catfish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good populations of bass; good numbers of fish greater than 15 inches and a few 20 inch bass are present. Fifteen hundred 4.5-inch largemouth bass were stocked in the fall of 2011 to help offset effects of a poor spawn in that year. Aquatic vegetation is increasing at the lake so bass anglers may want to concentrate their efforts near weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Poor/Fair	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 5 inches can be found.

LAKE LINVILLE	274 acres	(Rockcastle County)
Bluegill	Excellent	Abundant 6-8 inch fish available. Try crickets, red worms, or small jigs for good spring and summer fishing. Good access for bank anglers.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked during odd-numbered years. Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some fish over 20 inches available. Good bank fishing available.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Began annual stockings in 2007. Anglers can expect mostly 10-13 inch hybrids with a fair number of larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Abundant smaller fish (10-13 inches) and moderate numbers of fish larger than 18 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low density population.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous, but most are only 10-12 inches.
White bass	Fair	Improving numbers of 11-14 inch white bass.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE MALONE	767 acres	(Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4-6 inch fish. Some larger fish available. Fish shallow water in/around lilly pads and backs of coves in spring/summer with popeye jigs and live bait.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Large number, but mostly slow-growing smaller fish less than 14 inches. Stocking rate is being reduced to increase growth rate.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9-10 inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Stable population with large number of 15-20 inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and fall and at night during summer with plastic baits. Also try submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in spring and summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) fish available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.

LAKE REBA 76 acres (Madison County)

Shoreline vegetation continues to be a problem within the lake, making bank fishing difficult. KDFWR personnel have implemented a program for chemical and biological removal of the vegetation. In 2007 and 2010 grass carp were stocked; remember removal of these fish is illegal.

Bluegill	Fair	Abundant (overpopulated); few larger than six inches long, but majority are below 6 inches. Good opportunity for kids to catch a fish. This population is rated as fair simply because of the lower numbers of larger sized fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Also, many brown bullheads 12-15 in long can be found in the lake. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Most fish are within the 12 – 14.9 inch range, which are not legal for harvest, but good none the less. There continues to be a healthy population of smaller fish to take the place of the larger fish as they are removed from the population. Larger bass generally are in areas of the lake that need to be reached by boat. Several bass over 20-inches long have been sampled. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers within the lake, most less than 7 inches long. Note: see bluegill.

LAKE WILGREEN 169 acres (Madison County)

The introduction of gizzard shad into the lake has resulted in a large population of both large and small shad. For the immediate this has helped the larger largemouth bass as they are able to feed on these fish, and the effect on the bluegill has yet to be determined. For the future, look for bluegill and redear sunfish to be heavily impacted by this introduction and that could have detrimental effects on the largemouth bass as their primary forage at a young age are sunfish.

Bluegill	Fair/Good	Population has rebounded to more normal levels. Declines in the small sized fish (less than 6 inches) could be indication of the impacts of the shad.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Large numbers of 15-inch plus fish, and these fish are heavier than normal as they are feeding on the shad in the lake. These fish may be difficult to capture as they have plenty of forage, but they are found lake wide. Try fishing weed beds and woody debris.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE WILGREEN (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish larger than 8 inches. This population is looking the best it has in several years. Lower numbers than historical levels for Lake Wilgreen, but good for its more recent history.
LAUREL RIVER LAKE 5,830 acres (Whitley and Laurel counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Consistent numbers of 6-7 inch fish. Try crickets along rock walls in upper Laurel River Arm during summer months.
Crappie	Fair	Overall numbers remain low, but knowledgeable anglers can catch some quality crappie. Upper Laurel River near city dam is best area.
Largemouth bass	Good	Consistent numbers of 14-18 inch fish with a few over 20 inches. Upper Laurel River arm is best area. Laurel received supplemental stocking of fingerlings last fall to boost poor 2011 year class.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually in November and February. Should be good numbers of 10-14 inch trout and a few larger fish. Best fishing at night from May – September. Try trolling small cranks or spoons during November – March.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Quality winter fishery with good numbers of fish over 3 pounds and a few over 6 pounds. Try casting jigs or swim baits in winter and early spring for best success.
Spotted bass	Good	Consistent density of 11-14 inch fish with a few exceeding 15 inches. Best in the mid and lower sections of the lake. Look for schooling fish chasing shad on the surface in early fall.
Walleye	Good	Good 2009 year class (3-4 pounders) should provide the bulk of the fishery in 2012. Troll deep diving crank baits or spinner rigs across points and islands in summer and fall for best success. The two most recent year classes (2010 and 2011) appear comparatively poor which may negatively affect future years.
White bass	Poor	Low density population. Best numbers in Laurel River arm.
MARION COUNTY LAKE 32 acres (Marion County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Higher than average numbers of 12-inch plus available.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 8 inch plus fish and better than average number of 9-10 inch fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring for spawn then move back out to deeper water.
White Crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available; fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MARTINS FORK LAKE	334 acres	(Harlan County)
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7.25 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; approximately 8,000 stocked in 2010, and more will be stocked in 2012. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear.
Crappie	Fair	White crappie are present. Harvested fish are typically 9-10 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring and congregate in tight groups in standing timber in summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth but low recruitment and low numbers. A good year class of fish spawned in 2010 should improve numbers in coming years. Numbers over 15 inches are above average at present for the lake.
Walleye	Poor	The last stocking of Erie strain walleye occurred in 2004. Very few fish remain. Remaining fish should range from 20-29 inches. Stocking of native strain walleye will begin in 2012 in an attempt to build a more robust fishery.
MAUZY LAKE	81 acres	(Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Bluegill population is greatly improved compared to last few years. Good number of 7-8 inch fish in the population with some 9 inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	Stocked annually; many 15-22 inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good number of 14-20 inch fish in the population with larger fish available. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring/early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) fish available. Population has improved annually.
MCNEELY LAKE	51 acres	(Jefferson County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Nice fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in spring.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches; ≥ 10 inch fish are present.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
METCALFE COUNTY LAKE 22 acres (Metcalf County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	High numbers overall with good numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 7 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Fair numbers overall, but some trophy sized fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked annually since 2009.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Poor/Fair	Smaller sized (8-9 inch) and not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers of 15–inch plus fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) numbers above average.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery.
MILL CREEK LAKE 109 acres (Monroe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8-9 inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus) overall; 18-inch plus fish numbers well above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish; 10-inch plus fish available.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low numbers; but trophy fish available.
MILL CREEK LAKE 41 acres (Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)		
Clear, steep sided lake has limited bank access and is difficult to fish. Standing flooded timber and large boulders can be found in the upper portion of the lake.		
Bluegill	Poor/Fair	Not overly abundant in the lake. A few 6 inch and greater fish are present
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Poor	Similar numbers of fish greater than 15 inches to previous years. Overall bass are not highly abundant, but the larger ones (greater than 15 inches) grow rapidly in girth due to their diet of rainbow trout. This lake, while difficult to fish due to the clarity and access, does have potential for trophy size largemouth bass. Try fishing the upper portion of the lake in the flooded timber. Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking; otherwise fair-to-good, usually at night during the warmer months.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
NEW KINGFISHER LAKE	21 acres	(Daviess County)
Old and New Kingfisher Lakes will be drained and renovated during 2012. To see when the lakes will be available for fishing check KDFWR website at http://fw.ky.gov		

NOLIN RIVER LAKE	5,795 acres	(Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - good number of 13-18 inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large (30+ lbs) fish harvested annually. Fish late may through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good	Number of 9-11 inch crappie will be down a little compared to 2011 but many larger fish still being caught. Crappie angling should still be good at Nolin in 2012 with a decent number of 9-12 inch fish available for harvest.
Largemouth bass	Good	Number of 15-18 inch largemouth in the population is increasing. Anglers should benefit from the greater number of harvestable bass in the population in 2012.
Walleye	Fair	Numbers down compared to 2008-2009. Most fish 14-16 inches with a few up to 20-21 inches. In early spring fish Bacon creek and above with lead head jigs and plastic grubs. In summer troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas.
White bass	Excellent	Excellent population of white bass. Large number of 12-14 inch fish. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and grubs. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer fish at night under lights near main channel with jigging spoons or live minnows.

OHIO RIVER		
Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas. Also watch for increasing numbers of silver carp and bighead carp.
Crappie	Good	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6-10 pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)		
Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down lake, large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Good	Most of successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; fish sampled up to 15 inches. Late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High survival of young fish due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 24 inches; slow growth rates; number of fish over 15 inches are increasing. March is popular for catches of lunker fish.
Rainbow trout	Good	Good fishing present in shallow water during winter-early spring; fair fishing present in summer at depth of 20-25 feet. The catch and release portion of the tailwater can offer good quality rainbow and brown trout fishing.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Improving slowly. Poor recruitment; fish sampled up to 22 inches; 18 inch minimum size implemented in 2005; changes made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat; spawning benches being placed in lake to aid recruitment. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish have occurred from 2009-2011 with further stockings planned.
Spotted bass	Fair	Numbers down slightly; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches. Best fishing in lower half of lake.
Walleye	Fair	Fair numbers through 25 inches; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During summer target weedbed edges with minnows or nightcrawlers.
White bass	Poor	Low numbers but good size fish. Fish will congregate in Little Paint and Open Fork arms in March.
PAN BOWL LAKE 98 acres (Breathitt County)		
Eurasian water milfoil is present in Panbowl Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment. Grass carp have been stocked in Panbowl Lake to control the Eurasian water milfoil. All grass carp caught in Panbowl Lake must be released immediately.		
Bluegill	Good	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake. Fish early or late in the year when milfoil is not a problem.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fish were stocked in 2010, and will be stocked again in 2012.
Crappie	Poor	Black and white crappie are present; fish sampled up to 12 inches; most are less than 9 inches; tend to congregate in tight groups in deeper areas of lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish up to 12 inches and good numbers of fish above 18 inches; lake contains a large amount of aquatic vegetation providing cover for large fish. These fish see a lot of angling pressure often making success for large fish tough.
Redear sunfish	Good	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 8.5 inches. May and June are good months to fish for them around weed beds.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PENNYRILE LAKE 47 acres (Christian County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Improving numbers of larger bluegill. Numerous fish less than 6 inches also present. Try crickets on an Aberdeen hook under a cork.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of catfish 12-15 inches, a few larger individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawler or cheese bait should provide success. Fishing the tailwaters during spring flows should also prove successful.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers of crappie, but those few present are large.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent numbers of intermediate sized fish. A quiet and scenic place to fish, but remember bass are protected between 12-15 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numerous fish in the 7-9 inch range. Few redear present greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success in the shallow, vegetated, south end of the lake.
REBEL TRACE LAKE 19 acres (Meniffee county)		
Watershield has now replaced the Eurasian watermilfoil in covering a good portion of the lake; therefore fishing may be difficult, especially in the summer and fall. This lake is also rapidly filling in.		
Bluegill	Good	Fair numbers of 6-inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas and downed timber in spring. Also, as the lake fills in, numerous spawning beds can be found offshore in shallow areas where the aquatic vegetation is less dense.
Largemouth bass	Poor/Fair	Lake receives heavy pressure therefore fewer numbers of bass are caught. Though limited, fish up to 19-inches can be found. Fish woody structure and weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-inch fish with some 9-inch fish present.
ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater 5,100 acres (Breckinridge and Grayson counties)		
Catfish	Good	Good number of channel catfish in the 20-25 inch range. Lower number of flathead catfish but trophy fish available. Tailwater good in early summer and again during fall drawdown. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and moderately steep rocky banks during mid May-June for spawning fish.
Crappie	Good	Good number of 9-11 inch fish in the population with 14-16 inch fish available. Large number of 6 inch fish from another highly successful spawn in 2010. The number of 10-11 inch fish should increase slightly for 2012. Tailwater area is also good early spring crappie fishery.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Many 20 inch plus trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Troll main lake points or sand/mud banks again in fall. Tailwater area good in spring (April).
Largemouth bass	Good	Good number of 15-18 inch fish and several in the 19-22 inch range. The number of 15 inch and larger fish has been slowly increasing. Bass anglers at Rough should continue to enjoy good numbers of harvestable size bass.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	All sizes available. Higher than average numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Poor/Fair	Fair numbers of 7-8 inch fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then back out to deeper water in early summer.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.
SMOKY VALLEY LAKE 36 acres (Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fairly common 7-inches long or less, but 8-inch long bluegill are present.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	The population within the lake continues to be stunted as 98% of the fish sampled are less than 12 inches and 88% of the fish are less than 10 inches. Removal of the smaller largemouth is the only way this lake will correct its stunting problem, and anglers need to keep this in mind as they fish here. Excellent lake to fish if you want to catch fish as most anglers are reporting catches of numerous small fish. Note: no minimum size limit, 6 fish daily creel limit.
SPURLINGTON LAKE 36 acres (Taylor County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 6 inch plus fish and better than average numbers of 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Good opportunity for 20-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Occasional 10-inch fish available.
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE 3,050 acres (Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)		
Blue catfish	Good	Population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crank baits (open water areas). Fish over 30 inches possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Channel catfish	Good	Many fish of all sizes. Look for bigger fish in the timber in spring; head of creeks in fall; points next to channel any time.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good number of fish at and above the 9-inch size limit. Black crappie now dominate population; good spawns of black crappie noted last year. Note: daily creel limit 15 fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE (continued)		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Overall numbers lower, but fair numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters; look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 12-15 inch fish; good number of 15-18 inch fish. Best in timber coves; try embayments in spring and fall.
White bass	Fair	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall. Many 10-13 inch fish present.
THREE SPRINGS LAKE 30 acres (Warren County)		
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6-7 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good sized fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November–March) for put and take fishing.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of larger fish (8-inch plus) available; better than average numbers of 10-inch plus fish.
WASHBURN LAKE 18 acres (Ohio County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Low number, but many fish in 7-inch range.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population with many 15-20 inch fish available.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number, but several 9-11 inch fish in population.
WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Fishing best at night near creek channel.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Muskie	Fair	Fishing best in the lower half of the lake near vegetation beds in winter to early spring. Fishing good below the dam year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Better than average number of 8-inch plus fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WOOD CREEK LAKE	672 acres	(Laurel County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-7 inch bluegills.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Good population of 12-18 inch fish available. Wood Creek is one of the better catfish fisheries in this area of the state.
Crappie	Fair	Good density of smaller fish with relatively few fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 13-17 inch fish. Impressive size range with some fish exceeding 20 inches.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in February and November.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate density of 8-inch and larger redear are available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Very scarce in lake.
Spotted bass	Fair	Pretty good numbers but most are less than 12 inches. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
YATESVILLE LAKE	2,314 acres	(Lawrence County)
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to about 7.5 inches throughout the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; during fall early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake; popular lake for jugging.
Crappie	Fair	Decent numbers of 8-10 inch fish. Larger fish up to 14 inches are available. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with shallow mudflats being good in the fall.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Good size distribution with fair numbers; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Last couple years have had good spawns of young fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution of fish with many over 15 inches. Large fish are found on deep structure in early fall. Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year it produces good results.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

Largemouth bass

In spring, fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, or use floating or shallow diving stick baits. A black/brown or black/blue ½ ounce jig with #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments works well. Around woody structure use a spinner bait, or plastic lizards either pumpkin or june bug color.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics, and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook (current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive).

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad-color or blue/chartreuse color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devil horse) in the flats of embayments. Use white spinner baits around main lake stumps.

The recent dry summers have really brought on the aquatic vegetation. The beds of weeds are extremely productive during the late spring, summer and early fall. Top water baits such as spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics, such as worms, along with spinner baits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravely shorelines fishing with a curly tail jig.

Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits.

Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

Sauger

Troll main-lake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits bumping the bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel.

White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters

Blue and channel catfish	Best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait fishing just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish ¾ oz or 1 oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	Best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4 inch sassy shad baits in pearl or chartreuse color with 1-2 ounce head (depending on amount of current), bumping the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River		✓							✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓					
Beaver Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Beshear Lake	✓								
Boltz Lake	✓			✓					
Briggs Lake				✓					
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓					✓
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Carpenter Lake	✓								
Carr Creek Lake			✓						
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓					
Chenoa Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake	✓				✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake				✓	✓	✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake				✓	✓				
Fishpond Lake	✓			✓			✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Grayson Lake				✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River									✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Lake Carnico	✓								
Lake Linville	✓		✓	✓					
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba	✓								
Lake Wilgreen	✓								
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake									
Mauzy Lake	✓			✓					
McNeely Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Metcalf County Lake	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)							✓		
Nolin River Lake	✓								
Ohio River						✓			
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓	✓		
Panbowl Lake				✓	✓				
Pennyrile Lake									
Rebel Trace Lake				✓	✓				
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓			✓					
Taylorsville Lake	✓			✓					
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir				✓	✓				
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓					

** Additional species can be found on following page.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓					✓	✓	
Barren River								
Barren River Lake		✓				✓	✓	✓
Beaver Lake						✓		
Beshear Lake						✓		
Boltz Lake								
Briggs Lake						✓		
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater						✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake						✓		
Carpenter Lake						✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓				
Cave Run Lake			✓			✓		
Cedar Creek Lake						✓		
Chenoa Lake								
Clear Creek Lake								
Corinth Lake						✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓					✓		
Dale Hollow Lake								
Dewey Lake			✓			✓		✓
Elkhorn Creek						✓		
Elmer Davis Lake						✓		
Fagan Branch Lake						✓		
Fishpond Lake								
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓				✓		✓
Grayson Lake						✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake						✓		
Greenbo Lake						✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓		
Herrington Lake		✓	✓					✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓			
Kincaid Lake						✓		
Lake Carnico								
Lake Linville						✓		
Lake Malone								
Lake Reba						✓		
Lake Wilgreen								
Laurel River Lake				✓				
Marion County Lake						✓		
Martin's Fork Lake						✓		
Mauzy Lake						✓		
McNeely Lake								
Metcalf County Lake								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)						✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓					✓
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓		
Panbowl Lake						✓		
Pennyrile Lake						✓		
Rebel Trace Lake								
Rough River Lake		✓				✓		
Smoky Valley Lake						✓		
Spurlington Lake						✓		
Taylorsville Lake						✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake						✓		
Washburn Lake						✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir						✓		
Wood Creek Lake						✓		
Yatesville Lake						✓		